

## Met. Anthony Bloom on St. Mary of Egypt

She can teach us something very great. As Saint Seraphim of Sarov repeated more than once to those who came to see him, the difference between a sinner who is lost and a sinner who finds his way to salvation lies in nothing but determination. The grace of God is always there; but our response is not. But Mary responded; through the horror of her new perception of herself she responded to the holiness, the grace, the wholeness and sanctity of the Mother of God, and nothing, nothing was too much for her to change her life...She can teach us a great deal. She can teach us that only if one day we become aware that in the realm into which we walk so freely: the church, or simply the world created by God and which has remained pure of evil although subjected, enslaved to evil, because of us – is so holy that we alone have no place there, we might in response to this sense repent, that is turn away from ourselves in horror, and turn against ourselves with stern determination. Then we could follow her example...This example of hers is presented to us as a crowning moment of this spring of life, which is Lent. A week before we heard the teaching and call of Saint John of the Ladder, the one who has established a whole ladder of perfection for us to overcome evil and come to right. And today we see one who from the very depth of evil was brought to the heights of saintliness, and as the Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete says: ‘Be sure that God Who could heal the leprous could heal the leprosy which is yours’. Let us therefore see in her a new encouragement, a new hope, indeed, a new joy, but also a challenge, a call, because it is in vain that we sing the praise of saints if we do not learn from them and emulate them.

*“Let us Attend!”*



*“Therefore thy soul, O Mother Mary, rejoices with the Angels...”*

A PARISH BULLETIN OF  
ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH

Olyphant, Pennsylvania

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29 March 2026

**Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast**

**St. Mary of Egypt**

Bulletin, Sunday, 29 March 2026

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 1. St Mary of Egypt.** Hieromartyr Mark, Bishop of Arethusa, Martyr Cyril the Deacon, of Heliopolis, and others who suffered under Julian the Apostate (ca. 364). Ven. John, Anchorite, of Egypt (4th c.). St. Eustathius the Confessor, Bishop of Bithynia (9th c.). St. Nikéetas of the Roslavl Forests (Russia—1793).

**Epistle:** Hebrews 9:11–14 (Sunday); Galatians 3:23–29 (St. Mary); **Gospel:** Mark 10:32–45 (Sunday); Luke 7:36–50 (St. Mary)

**Schedule:**

- **Today, 4PM. Mission Vespers at St. Nicholas Parish, Olyphant**
- **Monday, 30 March 2026: 9am, Lenten Hours.**
- **Wednesday, 1 April 2026: 6pm Presanctified Liturgy followed by Lenten Potluck Meal. Please bring a covered dish.**
- **Thursday, 2 April 2026: 6PM Choir Rehearsal in Preparation for Holy Week**
- **Friday, 3 April 2026: 10:30AM Education Session. The Temple of God as the Window to Heaven. Followed by Youth Luncheon and Fellowship Afternoon. 5:00–6:15PM Fr. Paul available for Confession, 6:00PM Vespers for Lazarus Saturday.**

– **Saturday, 4 April 2026: 9:30AM Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday, followed by preparation of Palms and Willows; 5:00–5:45PM Fr. Paul available for Confessions; 6:00PM Great Vespers with Lytia for Entrance of the Lord into Jerusalem.**

– **Sunday, 5 April 2026, Palm Sunday. 9:30AM Blessing of Palms and Willows, Procession, and Divine Liturgy, followed Agape Coffee Hour.**

~ A warm welcome to all visiting with us today. Please come downstairs and share in fellowship with us.

~ The parish is now receiving flower donations for Holy Pascha. If you wish to make a donation, please indicate Paschal Flowers on a donation envelope.

~ We begin our Holy Week journey next weekend with the two Great celebrations of the Raising of Lazarus and the Entrance of the Lord into Jerusalem. Let us join together to celebrate these Feasts which give us a foretaste of Holy Pascha.

~ This Friday morning at 10: 30AM Fr. Paul will have an interactive conversation on the Church as a window to the Kingdom of God. All are invited to learn how the church building itself speaks to us about the Life in Christ.